

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01622 031151Z

46

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-01 /045 W
----- 014073

P R 031109Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3348

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1622

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE, AID
BEIRUT FOR AGATT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, SY

SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I RICE TENDER

REF: DAMASCUS 1511

1. RICE TENDER BY TAFCO HAS HIT SNAG AND BOTH AWARDS
RATIFIED BY TAFCO RISK REFUSAL BY USDA SINCE TAFCO DID
NOT RPT NOT MEET TIME DEADLINE OF 1400 HOURS LOCAL
MAY 1.

2. MINECON IMADI HAS TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR TO REQUEST
HIS PERSONAL INTERVENTION TO ASK USDA LET AWARDS GO
THROUGH. IMADI EXPLAINED PROBLEM HAD BEEN THAT TAFCO
OFFICIALS UNABLE CONTACT HIM OR PRIME MINISTER FOR
FINAL APPROVAL BY MAY 1 DEADLINE SINCE BOTH PREOCCUPIED
WITH OFFICIAL CEREMONIES ON THAT DAY WHICH AT LAST
MINUTE HAD BEEN DECLARED NATIONAL HOLIDAY. AMBASSADOR PROMISED
REFER MATTER TO USDA.

3. AMBASSADOR HOPES USDA CAN BE FLEXIBLE ON THIS
MATTER IN VIEW OF EXTENDED DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING
THIS DEAL FINALIZED SINCE SIGNING OF PL-480 AGREEMENT
LAST NOVEMBER.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 01622 031151Z

4. AS USDA AWARE, TACO AWARDED CONTRACT OF 10,000 TONS TO CONTINENTAL GRAIN COMPANY; THIS AWARD WAS MADE SEVERAL HOURS LATE MAY 1. TAFCO SUBSEQUENTLY MADE AWARD OF 12,000 TONS TO GARNAC GRAIN COMPANY OVER ONE DAY LATE.

5. IF USDA UNABLE APPROVE EITHER OR BOTH AWARDS, TAFCO PROPOSES TO RE-ISSUE TENDER EXACTLY AS GIVEN IN REFTEL WITH ONLY THE DATES FOR RECEIVING OFFERS AND THE AWARDS BEING CHANGED. NEW TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS AND SHOULD BE INSERTED UNDER BIDS SECTION PARAGRAPH THREE:
"TELEGRAPHIC OR TELEX OFFERS SHOULD BE RECEIVED WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, UNTIL 1400 DAMASCUS LOCAL TIME. AWARDS SHALL BE SENT TO SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS BY TELEGRAM NOT LATER THAN 1400 HOURS MAY 8, 1975."

6. EMBASSY REQUESTS USDA ADVISE OF ITS DECISION BY TELEPHONE TO THIS EMBASSY EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME MONDAY MORNING WASHINGTON SO THAT IF TAFCO MUST RETENDER IT CAN ISSUE NEW TENDER SAME DAY.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, PL 480 TITLE 1, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01622
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0236
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacxbx.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 1511
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PL-480 TITLE I RICE TENDER
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, US, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006